

esprit 1999 orchestra 2000

Alex Pauk music director and conductor



Tuesday, October 19, 1999

8:00 pm concert (pre-concert talk 7:00 pm)

Jane Mallett Theatre, St. Lawrence Centre

diverse pleasures

This concert, along with the Esprit's March and May concerts, weaves music by composers featured on Esprit's debut European tour (September 1999) into a rich and diverse Canadian musical fabric enhanced by works from abroad. *Ondine*, by Tiziano Manca, was one of several works selected in the Gaudeamus Young Composers' Competition and performed on Esprit's concerts at the 1999 International Gaudeamus Music Week in Amsterdam.

composers

DENIS GOUGEON (Canada)

Primus Tempus, 1993

CHRIS PAUL HARMAN (Canada)

Procession burlesque, 1998

ALEXINA LOUIE (Canada)

Shattered Night, Shivering Stars, 1997

TIZIANO MANCA (Italy)

Ondine, 1998 Canadian premiere

DENYS BOULIANE (Canada)

Du fouet et du plaisir, 1997

Sunday, November 14, 1999

8:00 pm concert (pre-concert event 7:00 pm)

Massey Hall (opening concert – Massey Hall New Music Festival)

celebrating harry somers

Of special interest on this concert, Esprit's first ever devoted to the music of one composer, is a Somers work unknown by the public – *Elegy, Transformation, Jubilation*. The piece requires the largest orchestra ever used by Esprit to be spatially divided into five groups onstage and features the ultimate application of Somers' multi-tempo, multi-layering, multi-phonic techniques.

In combination with the other music on this programme, the piece offers an in-depth experience of the composer's musical brilliance and spirituality.

guest artists

JEAN STILWELL, mezzo-soprano

JAMES PARKER, piano

composer

HARRY SOMERS (Canada)

Five Songs for Dark Voice, 1956

HARRY SOMERS (Canada)

The Third Piano Concerto, 1996

HARRY SOMERS (Canada)

Elegy, Transformation, Jubilation, 1981

Friday, March 24, 2000

8:00 pm concert (pre-concert talk 7:00 pm)

Jane Mallett Theatre, St. Lawrence Centre

the palace of the cinnabar phoenix

Oriental inflections appear in each piece on this concert. As a Millennium project, Esprit has commissioned the second to last work in Murray Schafer's *Patria* series – *The Palace of the Cinnabar Phoenix* – a spectacular music drama set in China's T'sang Dynasty (A.D. 618-907). To be performed outdoors in the evening and after nightfall at the edge of a lake, the work is "a message of peace for the Millennium and speaks of harmony between East and West as well as harmony with nature." This programme previews segments of the piece for choir and orchestra in a concert version. Evangelista's work derives its inspiration from North Indian musical forms while Ishii's *Concertante* reveals the composer's heritage through the vigour and mastery of his highly individualistic style. Vivier's magical *Pulau dewata* (for any combination of instruments) was influenced by the composer's extensive travels in Asia and has become his best known and most widely performed piece.

guest artists

marimba soloist (tba)
choir (tba)

composers

R. MURRAY SCHAFER (Canada)

The Palace of the Cinnabar Phoenix, 1999 **world premiere**

(for choir and orchestra – excerpts from *Patria 8* – a music theatre work in progress)

commissioned by Esprit Orchestra as a millennium project
with funding from The Canada Council, Ontario Arts Council,
the Laidlaw Foundation and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation

MAKI ISHII (Japan)

Concertante op. 79, 1988 **Canadian premiere**

for marimba solo and six percussionists

JOSÉ EVANGELISTA (Canada)

Alap & Gat, 1998

CLAUDE VIVIER (Canada)

Pulau dewata, 1977

Wednesday, May 31, 2000

8:00 pm concert (pre-concert talk 7:00 pm)

Jane Mallett Theatre, St. Lawrence Centre

esprit snapshot 2000

This concert captures the essence of Esprit's mandate which centres on discovering young composers, promoting Canada's most accomplished composers, guarding our musical heritage by ensuring senior composers are not forgotten and placing Canadian music in an international context. Repeat performances of previously commissioned works are integral to our programming. As part of the MusicCanadaMusique 2000 celebrations, the programme includes an encore performance of the first piece ever commissioned by Esprit (Rea) together with our most recent commissions (Sokolovic and Hétu). Through the music of Hétu, Rea and Sokolovic, three generations of Canadian composers are represented. Ron Ford's piece adds the international accent and extends Esprit's link with the contemporary music scene in The Netherlands.

guest artists

ANDRÉ LAPLANTE, piano

soprano (tba)

baritone (tba)

composers

JACQUES HÉTU (Canada)

Concerto for Piano and Orchestra, 2000 world premiere

commissioned by Esprit Orchestra in partnership with

Yamaha and MusicCanadaMusique 2000 with leading support
from the Canada Millennium Partnership Programme.

RON FORD (The Netherlands)

London Song, 1997 Canadian premiere

for soprano, baritone and orchestra

JOHN REA (Canada)

Vanishing Points, 1983

ANA SOKOLOVIC (Canada)

Nine Proverbs, 2000 world premiere

commissioned by Esprit Orchestra with funds from The Canada Council

esprit orchestra profile

Esprit is Canada's only orchestra devoted exclusively to contemporary music. Each season, the orchestra commissions and premieres new Canadian pieces and ensures continued audience access to these works through encore performances, radio broadcasts (CBC Radio One and Two), compact disc recordings (CBC Records SM 5000 label) and film soundtracks (Don McKellar's *Last Night* and Jeremy Podeswa's *The Five Senses*). Esprit's programming is innovative and aims to stimulate, enlighten, entertain and challenge its audiences.

Esprit's 1999/2000 season began with the orchestra's debut European tour in early September. With four concerts in Amsterdam (at the International Gaudefamus Music Week) and one in Paris, Esprit's tour was one of the largest-ever presentations of Canadian orchestral music in Europe. Ninety per cent of the repertoire was Canadian and guest artists on tour were Robert Aitken, flute, and Erica Goodman, harp.

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Each year Esprit provides access to a full season of its concerts to students from the Greater Metro area by inviting our subscribers to purchase a student subscription along with their own. At the beginning of each season we pass these student subscriptions on to schools that have taken part in Esprit's educational activities. If you would like to donate a season of Esprit concerts to a student, please complete the Sponsor-a-Student (*Toward a Living Art*) section on this form.

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St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts collects ticket fees on behalf of Esprit Orchestra but cannot be responsible for refunds should performances be cancelled. Each ticket includes a \$1.07 Capital Improvement Fund surcharge. All programmes are subject to change without notice. Should an artist be unable to appear, Esprit Orchestra reserves the right to make arrangements for substitute performers.

designed in orbit / gary stüber photography by steven brown

